ILLINOIS.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Illinois is situated between 37° and 42° 30' N. lat., and 10° 20' and 14° W. long. It is bounded north by the North West Territory; east by Indiana; south by Kentucky; and west by Missouri. Its medium length is about 365 miles, and medium breadth 162, the area being about 59,000 square miles, or 37,760,000 acres.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.

The greater part of the state is either flat or undulating. Extensive prairies constitute two-thirds of its surface. The soil may be classed into six classes. 1, bottom, bearing a heavy growth of timber. This land is of the first quality, and is found on all the principal rivers. It varies in width from 50 rods to two miles, and is of inexhaustible fertility. 2, Newly-formed land found at the mouths of rivers. There are many thousand acres of this land at the mouth of the Wabash, and at the confluence of the Ohio with the Mississippi. It is annually inundated, and is very unhealthy. 3, Dry prairies, approaching the rivers and bordering on the bottom land, but elevated from 20 to 100 feet. The prairies of the Illinois river are the most extensive of any east of the Mississippi, and have been here estimated at 1,500,000 acres. The soil is not inferior to the first rate river bottoms. 4, Wet prairies, found remote from rivers or at their sources. This soil is generally cold and barren, abounding with swamps and ponds, and covered with a tall coarse grass. 5, Timbered land, moderately hilly, well watered, and of a rich soil. 6, Hills, of a sterile soil, and destitute of timber, or covered with stunted oaks and pines. Corn is at present the staple production of the state. Wheat does well, except on the bottoms, where the soil is too rich. Tobacco grows to great perfection. Flax, hemp, oats, fruit and sweet potatoes succeed as well as in Kentucky. Among the mineral productions are iron, coal, and copper. Salt springs are also numerous.

RIVERS.

The state is bordered on three sides by the great rivers Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi. The Illinois is formed by the Kankakee and the Plaines, which unite near the N. E. corner of the state. It pursues a south-westerly course of nearly 400 miles, and joins the Mississippi 18 miles above the mouth of the Missouri. It has a gentle current, unbroken by rapids, and is navigable for boats throughout its whole course. The Kaskaskia rises in the N. E. part of the state, and running S. W. falls into the Mississippi, 143 miles below the mouth of the Illinois, and 400 above that of the Ohio. It is navigable for 100 miles. The Cahokia falls into the Mississippi, four miles below St. Louis. Salt river falls into the Ohio, 32 miles below the mouth of the Wabash. It is navigable for 30 miles. There are salt works belonging to the United States on this stream, 22 miles from its mouth. The Little Wabash falls into the Wabash, a few miles from its mouth.

CLIMATE.

The climate is in general very favourable. In the south it is sufficiently mild to raise cotton; and peaches come to maturity in the northern parts. It is generally healthy and agreeable.

CIVIL DIVISIONS AND POPULATION, 1820.

Counties.	Inhabitants.
Gallatin	3155
Madison	4838
Edwards	3444
Franklin	1763
Washington	1517
Bond	2931
Alexander	626
Jackson	1542
Randolph	3532
St. Clair	5233
Monroe	1516
Union	2362
Wayne	1114
Jefferson	681
Montgomery	427
Crawford	3022
Clark	931
Pope	2610
Johnson	843
	55,211

In 1810 the population was 12,282; in 1818, 35,220; in 1820, 55,211, and is very rapidly increasing. The settlements at present are confined to the southern portion of the state, and the neighbourhood of the great rivers. The number of slaves in Illinois in 1810 was 168. The constitution provides that no more slaves shall be introduced into the state.

CHIEF TOWNS.

Kaskaskia, lately the seat of government, is on the right bank of Kaskaskia river, 11 miles from its mouth. It contains a bank, a land office, a printing office, and about 160 houses, scattered over an extensive plain. The town was settled upwards of a hundred years ago by emigrants from Lower Canada, and about one half of the inhabitants are French. The surrounding country is under good cultivation. Cahokia is a French settlement, on the Mississippi, 52 miles N. N. W. of Kaskaskia, and 5 miles below St. Louis. Shawneetown is on the north bank of the Ohio, 12 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, and 12 miles east of the salt works belonging to the United States, as before cited. The inhabitants are supported principally by the profits of the salt trade. Edwardsville is a flourishing town on Cahokia river, 22 miles N. E. of St. Louis. Vandalia, 50 miles N. E. of Edwardsville, is now the seat of government.

CANAL.

A canal has long been in contemplation to unite the waters of Lake Michigan with those of Illinois river. The Chicago, a river which falls into the south end of Lake Michigan, is so connected with the Plaines, one of the head waters of the Illinois, that in freshets boats pass readily from one to the other. The government of the United States has given permission to open a canal, with a grant of 140,000 acres of land, the fund through which it will run, and 90 feet on each side of it. This canal can probably be made at less expense than any other water communication between the great lakes and the Mississippi.

PUBLIC LANDS.

In 1817 there were in Illinois upwards of 16,000,000 acres of land belonging to the United States, obtained by purchase from the Indians. The portion of these lands lying between the Illinois and the Mississippi has been surveyed and laid out in freshets from bounty lands to the soldiers who enlisted during the late war. The whole amount surveyed is about 3,530,000 acres, equal to 8640 square miles, and is divided into 360 townships. This land is represented to be of an excellent quality.

EDUCATION.

When Illinois was admitted into the union in 1818, the government of the United States granted to the state, on certain conditions, one section or thirty-sixth part of every township, for the support of schools. Three per cent. of the net proceeds arising from the sale of the public lands lying within the state are to constitute a fund for the encouragement of learning, of which one sixth part must be exclusively bestowed on a college or university. As a further provision for the university, two entire townships have been given to the state. Two per cent. of the proceeds of the United States lands are also to be expended, under the direction of congress, in making roads leading to the state.

As the condition of these grants, the convention which formed the constitution of the state provided by an ordinance which is irrevocable, without the consent of the United States, that all lands sold by the United States shall be exempted from taxation for five years from the day of sale; also, that the bounty lands granted for military services, during the late war, shall, if they continue to be held by the patentees or their heirs, remain exempt from taxes for three years from the date of the patents; and that the lands belonging to the citizens of the United States residing without the state, shall never be taxed higher than lands belonging to persons residing therein.

GOVERNMENT.

The constitution of Illinois was adopted by a convention held at Kaskaskia, on the 6th of August, 1818. It provides for the distribution of the powers of government into three departments. The legislative authority is vested in a general assembly, composed of a senate and house of representatives, the members of each of which bodies are elected every two years by the people. The senators vacate their seats in rotation. The governor is chosen every fourth year by the people, and, at the same period, a lieutenant governor is chosen in the same manner. The governor and judges of the supreme court constitute a council of revision, to which all bills that have passed the assembly must be presented. Although the council of revision may return a bill, with their objections, a majority of the members of both houses may pass it into a law. The governor nominates, and, with the consent of the senate, appoints to all offices not otherwise provided for in the constitution. The right of suffrage is universal. All white male inhabitants who have resided in the state six months preceding the elections, enjoy the right of electors; and it is provided that all votes shall be given viva voce, until altered by the general assembly. The general assembly is to form one supreme court, and in each inferior courts as the general assembly may from time to time establish. The supreme court consists of a chief justice and three associate justices, who are appointed by joint ballot of both houses of the assembly, and hold their offices until the end of the first session of the general assembly in 1824, at which time their commissions expire; but after that period the justices of the supreme court and of the inferior courts hold their offices during good behaviour.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The name which now belongs exclusively to this state was, during a great part of the last century, bestowed upon all that tract of country which lies north and east of the Ohio, and was derived from the river Illinois, which, in the language of the Indians, by whom the banks were inhabited, signifies *the river of men*. The first settlements within the present limits of Illinois were, like those of Indiana, made by the French, and were the consequence of the adventurous enterprise of M. de la Salle in search of the Mississippi. This famous traveller set out from Canada in the year 1679, in company with father Hennepin, and three or four men; and, passing across the lakes to Michigan, descended the Illinois river, but was compelled to remain in the country during the winter, and did not reach the Mississippi until the spring following. After examining the country about the Illinois, with which he was greatly pleased, he returned to Canada, leaving the chevalier de Tonti in command of a small fort which he had built, and named the *Crévecœur* following a settlement on the banks of the Mississippi, in the Illinois country. They reached their place of destination in 1673, and founded the villages of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and several others of less note. Here La Salle left his colony, while he descended the Mississippi, to its mouth. Soon after this settlement, many emigrants from France came into the vicinity of the Illinois, in search of mineral riches, which at that period it was supposed to possess, and after the establishment of a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi, Ill., the French governor, in company with several others, undertook a similar expedition. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the settlement in Illinois are represented to have been in a flourishing situation, having been formed by lonely Canadians, who were well acquainted with the precautions necessary to new colonies. Kaskaskia had become a considerable town, before any great progress was made in the settlements on the lower Mississippi, and one who calculated the future by what was then exhibited would have been little reason to foretel the rapid growth of Louisiana, and the decline of the civilized settlements in the Illinois which afterwards took place. The descriptions given by French writers of the Illinois country, its population then bestowed on both banks of the Mississippi, were of the most captivating kind. Its beautiful scenery, its fertile prairies, its supposed mineral wealth, were painted in glowing colours, and a new paradise seemed to open for Frenchmen on the banks of the Illinois. To add to the attractions of the country, a menagerie of jesuits was established at Kaskaskia, which is said to have had at one time upwards of four hundred converts. The French of the settlements on the Illinois, like those of Indiana, were degenerated, and by degrees assimilated their manners to those of the Indians, among whom they resided. Of those savage the number and varieties at the epoch of the first settlement, and since, are not well ascertained. In 1763, when Carver visited this country, he found the Wimebagoes, a warlike nation, settled on Fox river, where they still reside; the Sankies on the upper part of the Ouisconsin and near the Portage, and the Outagamies, near its mouth and above it along the Mississippi. The Chippeways then possessed the country south of lake Superior, that on the Chippeway river, and on a great extent westward. The Menonomies then also occupied a large tract of country south-west of the Mississippi, on Upper Louisiana. In 1710 there were, according to Hutchins, twelve tribes inhabiting different parts of this state, viz. the Kaskaskias, Peorias, Kaskaskias, Michigamies, Foxes, Missisagues, Outagamies, Mascoutens, Mascoutins, Outamies, and Miamies, which tribes together, it was supposed, could send forth at that time 3200 fighting men.

From the beginning to the middle of the eighteenth century, we hear little of the French possessions on the banks of the Illinois. As the colonies of France and England extended themselves, the dispute close respecting the boundaries, which had never been sufficiently defined. The French, in relinquishing a struggle for the preservation of their American possessions, as early as the year 1749, strengthened themselves by fortifications, on the lakes, on the Ohio, the Wabash, the Illinois, and in other parts of the valley of the Mississippi to which they laid claim. The British, on the other hand, claimed the country on the Ohio and the neighbouring streams, by virtue of the charters they had granted. The Ohio company, which was formed soon afterwards, produced hostilities between the two powers. By the treaty of 1763, France ceded to Great Britain all the country east of the Mississippi and consequently the Illinois country passed under the dominion of the latter power. During its continuance as a British dependency, nothing of importance seems to have occurred. Few or no additions were made to the settlements at Kaskaskia, and the other French posts, the inhabitants of which were but little increased in civilization above the Indians.

At the peace of 1763, the British government renounced its claim of sovereignty over this country, as well as over the rest of the United States. These whole territory north and west of the Ohio was obtained by Virginia and some other states, or included in their charters, in consequence of their grants being described as extending to the South sea. At the instance of congress, a liberal cession of these claims was made to the general government, all the territory north-west of the Ohio became, in 1787, a dependency of the United States, and by an ordinance of congress a territorial government was established. The state of this was the first of the state governments established in this region. In 1851, a territorial government was organized embracing the whole of the country between the line of Ohio and the Mississippi, under the name of Indiana, of which Illinois remained a part until 1809, when a distinct territorial government was established for this region now forming the state of Illinois.

The Indian title to a considerable portion of the land in this state has been extinguished at different periods, and by fair purchase. In 1803 the Kaskaskias sold to the United States a tract of country of about 3,000 square miles, bordering on the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Ohio to the mouth of the Illinois, and extending back about eighty miles. The Sacs and Foxes, in the year following, conveyed to the United States a large tract in the form of a triangle, each side having about 360 miles in length, lying on the Mississippi, between the mouths of the Illinois and Ouisconsin, and conveying to a part of the march of Fox river, in the Illinois. By the year 1805, the Piankashaws sold to the United States a tract thirty by one hundred miles in extent, between the Great and Little Wabash. In December 1805, the Ottawas, Chippeways, and Pottawattamies, ceded to the United States a certain body lying within a line running from a point on the left bank of Fox river, ten miles above its confluence with the Illinois, through the space between Chicago creek and the river Plein, to a point on lake Michigan, ten miles north of the mouth of Chicago creek; for which cession they were to receive from the United States a considerable quantity of goods, and an annual compensation for twelve years of the value of one thousand dollars. In 1816, and subsequently, other treaties have been made with the different tribes residing in Illinois, by which additional territory has been gained.

The cubs of warfare were felt by the inhabitants of Illinois as well as by the other frontier settlements during the last war between the United States and Great Britain. One of the first acts of hostility perpetrated by the allies of the latter power, was committed within this district. The garrison of Chicago, a fort situated at the south-west extremity of lake Michigan, had received orders to evacuate that post and proceed to Detroit. On the 15th of August, 1812, the troops, in number about 70 men, accompanied by some women and children, marched from the fort, and had proceeded but a short distance when they were attacked by a host of savages, a determined resistance was made for some time, but the number of the Indians proving too great for any hope of success, captain Heald, the commander, consented to surrender, on the promise of protection. The survivors of this little band, however, had no sooner given up their arms than they were brutally massacred. Twenty-six of the regulars, and all the militia were killed, with two women and twelve children. The outrages of these savages determined governor Edwards to collect chastisement upon them. Accordingly, in September, 1812, colonel Russel, with about 400 regulars and militia, penetrated into the Indian country by the north-west, intending to co-operate with general Hopkins, on the Illinois. Having nothing of him, they proceeded against a considerable body of the enemy about twenty miles above Peoria, and immediately at the head of Peoria lake. The Indians, taken by surprise, fled into the swamp, pursued by the Americans with impetuosity, until they were driven across the Illinois. Upwards of twenty warriors were found dead, and many more must have been killed and drowned in the swamp. The American loss was only four wounded. After the engagement, colonel Russel destroyed their town, with the corn and plantations. During the remainder of the war, no event of importance appears to have occurred within the settlements.

In April, 1818, congress, on the petition of the legislature of Illinois, passed an act authorizing the people to form a state constitution, and declaring the boundaries which the territory might be admitted into the union. A convention accordingly met in September following, by which the terms proposed by the general government were acceded to, and a state constitution was adopted. In December, 1818, Illinois became a member of the union.

LIST OF GOVERNORS.

1818 Shadrach Bond to 1822.

PLACES REMARKABLE FOR BATTLES AND SIEGES, INDICATED BY A FLAG.

1812 *Chicago*: the garrison attacked by the Indians, and, after their surrender, basely murdered, ... August 15.

1813 *Peoria*: the Indians attacked and defeated by a party under colonel Russel, and their town destroyed, ... September.